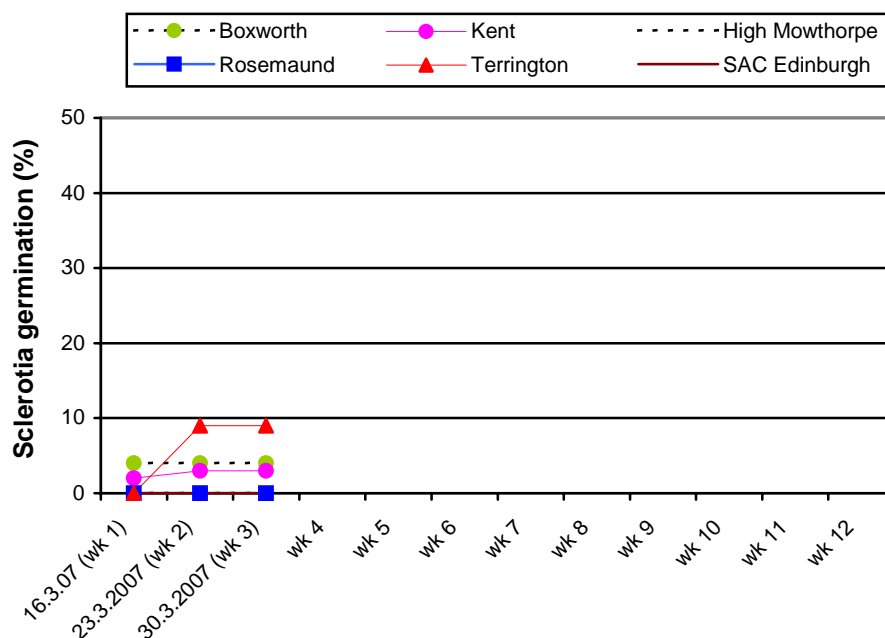


BASF/ADAS Sclerotinia Monitoring

Update 30th March 2007

Complete PGR timings now, flowering approaching rapidly so plan to spray for Sclerotinia at high risk sites



Crop development has continued steadily during the last week despite cold nights. Most crops range from mid-stem extension stage (40-60cm tall) to the yellow bud stage (GS 3,3-3,7) with a low percentage of taller plants starting to flower. A few forward crops are flowering (GS 4,1). There are still some nitrogen and some plant growth regulator (PGR) treatments to be applied. Crops will change quickly as they take up nitrogen and decisions with PGR treatments may need to be made when this occurs.

Little new activity has been detected during the last week and slugs are eating some of the apothecia (fruiting bodies). At the Terrington (Kings Lynn area) site, fruiting bodies appear to have been eaten by slugs and we await new emergence. It had 9% germination last week, the highest of all the reference sites. Soils are drying at the surface but milder temperatures and showers could soon lead to much higher apothecial production.

At present the general sclerotinia risk is low. However, given the early germination pattern this year, it is likely that fields with a history of sclerotinia problems will require treatment at early to mid -flowering. Sclerotinia activity should increase as soil temperatures rise, particularly if associated with showery weather and applications may be needed in 2-3 weeks time if the weather is unsettled.

ACTION

Decisions and actions with plant growth regulators are required on the more vigorous crops at the mid stem extension to yellow bud stage. PGR treatment should not be used on thin or stressed crops. Stressed crops include those on very wet sites and those with clubroot

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Light leaf spot can be found in all regions though it is reported to be more active than usual in the north and Midlands area. A fungicide spray is advised if more than 25% plants are affected, though this disease control will now form part of PGR or Sclerotinia control decisions. Phoma leaf spot remains common on the lower leaves and is decreasing, but stem canker symptoms are already present in a few crops. White leaf spot can be found in some crops in the south and west.

Quick reminder on canopy management

Benefits of canopy manipulation

- More even canopy, stronger branching – important for yield and lodging reduction
- Less pod shatter
- Easier and faster harvesting
- Caramba will encourage rooting, important where some root loss has occurred after the wet early spring.

These Sclerotinia monitoring bulletins are available on www.totaloilseedcare.co.uk

If you have any queries or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact your local Agronomy Manager or the BASF Technical Services Hotline 0845 602 2553.

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